

M E M O R A N D U M

Date: October 2, 2008
To: PSCC; SIEC; Interested Parties
From: Chris Cummiskey, Director
Government Information Technology Agency
Subject: Successful Transition of Public Safety Interoperable Communications
Office from DPS to GITA; Upcoming Meetings

Transition

The transition of the Public Safety Communications Advisory Commission (PSCC) from DPS to GITA commenced on July 1, 2008 and is now complete. In a short 90 day window, we:

- Transferred all physical, documentary and intellectual property assets
- Reconciled outstanding contracts and obligations
- Identified and transferred multiple funds
- Resolved over 50 transition issues.

My staff and I extend our sincere gratitude to DPS Director Vanderpool, Executive Officer Felix, Chief Ramming and their staffs for their support and spirit of cooperation that enabled us to accomplish this transition so quickly and seamlessly.

Establishment of New Office

During the 90 day transition window we also established new operations for public safety interoperable communications support at GITA as follows:

- Identified new office space
- Obtained approval to hire personnel
- Hired 2 new staff (details below)
- Populated a website for PSCC related documents, reports and communications
- Met with DPS Wireless Systems Bureau to lay groundwork for working together
- Met with SIEC co-chairs to lay groundwork for moving forward
- Scheduled upcoming meetings (details below).

New Staff

We are pleased to announce the hiring of Michael Todd as Interoperability Outreach Manager (start date: October 8, 2008) and Regina Bernal as PSIC Support Specialist (start date: October 6, 2008).

Michael Todd has an extensive outreach background in public safety. He began his career at Rural/Metro Fire Department as a Firefighter/Public Information Officer and his most recent positions at LifeNet Arizona and Native Air Services/Omniflight Helicopters enabled him to work closely with members of the public safety community statewide.

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Regina Bernal has been a State employee for 10 years where she has worked in a variety of capacities for the Capitol Police and Arizona Department of Administration. She is extremely organized and adept at juggling multiple projects and staff at one time.

We continue to evaluate applicants for the Interoperability Oversight Manager and Statewide Interoperability Coordinator positions. We appreciate your referrals to interested individuals. We hope to have these remaining positions filled shortly.

Federal Interactions

Interactions with federal authorities were also handled by GITA during the transition period. In the last 90 days we:

- Issued for comment, extensively revised and submitted an Arizona SCIP Implementation Report to the U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security Office of Emergency Communications (OEC). This report will serve as the baseline for reporting future progress on interoperability efforts.
- Requested a SCIP Implementation Workshop from OEC for the January timeframe.
- Identified, obtained feedback on and requested from OEC technical assistance to support our strategic initiatives.
- Participated in a multi-state call to action with OEC regarding go forward plans.
- Responded to inquiries from the Arizona Department of Homeland Security in regard to federal funding and project status for multiple related projects.
- Coordinated with the Arizona Division of Emergency Management to support funding approval and deployment plans for the Strategic Technology Reserve (STR).

Upcoming Meetings & Next Steps

Three important upcoming meeting dates are outlined below. The agendas and supporting materials for these meetings will be provided:

1. Quarterly combined SIEC and PSCC meeting (1 to 3 PM) – *meetings are being combined in October on the recommendation of the SIEC co-chairs Paul Wilson and Mark Venuti*

Date: October 28, 2008 OR October 29, 2008 – 1 to 3 PM (Input Requested)

IMPORTANT: The Southwest Border Communications Working Group will meet in Tucson from Monday October 27th to Wednesday October 29th at noon. Since some PSCC or SIEC members plan to participate in this meeting, we can move PSCC/SIEC meeting to the afternoon of October 29th, if the Commissioners feel this is appropriate. Otherwise, we will honor the original October 28th date which the Commission members should have on their calendars. **Please provide feedback on this meeting date to lmeyerson@azgita.gov.** We will notify you regarding the final date and location for this meeting by October 8th.

Location: Phoenix metro area with conference call in options available.

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Description: The first post-transition Commission meeting will include status updates regarding key projects highlighted in the SCIP, introduction of new staff and feedback regarding the work to be undertaken in the working session on November 20, 2008.

2. Interoperable Communications Stakeholder Working Session

Date: November 20, 2008, 10 AM to 4 PM (*one hour break 12:30 -1:30 PM*)

Location: Phoenix Metro area

Description: This working session will be an opportunity to discuss the most critical issues facing the State in advancing interoperability in a workshop style format. PSCC and SIEC members and their staffs will be encouraged to actively participate in the discussions. We will address the issues to be covered at this workshop during our October meeting.

We intend to utilize our OEC coordinator, Jennifer Hendry of SAIC, as the facilitator for this session. Ms. Hendry provided extensive feedback on our SCIP as it was developed, has facilitated small group discussions in Arizona on the key SCIP strategic initiatives, has facilitated similar sessions for other states and will be the Interoperable Communications Technical Assistance Program (ICTAP) representative provided by OEC, for our OEC led workshop in January 2009.

3. Arizona SCIP Implementation Workshop

Date: January 28, 2009 – 10 AM to 4 PM (*one hour break 12:30 -1:30 PM*)

Location: Phoenix Metro Area

Description: This workshop is offered to states at no charge by OEC. Its goal is to bring together Arizona stakeholders to focus on implementing the Arizona SCIP and aligning SCIP initiatives with the National Emergency Communications Plan (NECP) and future grant programs. OEC will provide a facilitator, note taker and an ICTAP representative to lead the workshop. Our November workshop will inform the areas we will focus on in our January planning discussions. This Workshop will substitute for formal PSCC and SIEC quarterly meetings in January.

One on One Meetings

Several Commissioners have expressed interest in meeting with us one on one. We are happy to schedule such meetings in November/December/January timeframe. Please let us know if you are interested in such a meeting.

Next Steps

Please let me or Lisa Meyerson of my office know if you have any questions, comments or concerns regarding the above. We can be reached at 602-364-4770 and 602-364-4780, respectively. Thank you for your continued support.